REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 4, 6-7, 9-12, 15 and 17-18 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 6, 7, 9, 12 and 17 are amended; Claims 2-3, 5, 8, 13-14 and 16 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer; and Claim 18 is newly added by the present amendment. Support for the new and amended claims can be found in the original specification, claims and drawings.[1] No new matter is presented.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1-3, 6-14 and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by Montulli (U.S. Patent No. 5,774,670); Claims 4 and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Montulli in view of Atamaniouk (U.S. Patent No. 7,164,685); and Claims 5 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Montulli in view of Kocherlakota (U.S. Patent No. 6,785,705).

In response to the above noted rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102 and 35 U.S.C. §103, Applicant respectfully submits that amended independent Claims 1, 7, 9 and 12 recite novel features clearly not taught or rendered obvious by the applied references.

Amended independent Claim 1 is directed to an information processing apparatus that communicates with a terminal connected to a network by using an HTTP protocol and performs processes requested by the terminal. The information processing apparatus includes a cookie information setting part configured to set, before keeping a memory area for storing information on a session between the terminal and the information processing apparatus, a predetermined string for checking a cookie status of the terminal as cookie information in an HTTP response corresponding to a first HTTP request sent from the terminal. The apparatus also includes a cookie information determining part configured to determine whether a

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[1] E.g., original Claims 2-3, 5 and 17, and Fig. 4.

second HTTP request includes the predetermined string as cookie information, wherein the second HTTP request is sent from the terminal after the first HTTP request is sent and indicates a start of a session between the terminal and the information processing apparatus.

When the cookie information determining part determines that the second HTTP request does not include the predetermined string, the information processing apparatus sends an HTTP response for the second HTTP request without keeping a memory area for storing information on a session between the terminal and the information processing apparatus and without including session identification information identifying the session into the HTTP response. However, when the cookie information determining part determines that the second HTTP request includes the predetermined string, the information processing apparatus keeps the memory area for storing information on a session between the terminal and the information processing apparatus, and sends to the terminal an HTTP response including the session identification information as a response to the second HTTP request.

Independent Claims 7 and 12, while directed to alternative embodiments, are amended to recite substantially similar features. Accordingly, the remarks and arguments presented below are applicable to each of amended independent Claims 1, 7 and 12.

Turning to the applied primary reference, Montulli describes a method and apparatus for transferring state information between a server computer system and a client computer system. More particularly, as described at col. 7, ll. 12-17 of Montulli, when a server responds to an HTTP request by returning an HTTP object to a client, the server may also send a piece of state information (i.e., cookie) that the client system will store.

Montulli, however, fails to teach or suggest "setting a predetermined string for checking a cookie status of the terminal, as cookie information, in an HTTP response corresponding to a first HTTP request sent from the terminal," as recited in amended independent Claim 1.

In contrast, <u>Montulli</u>, at col. 8, ll. 15-19, describes that a cookie may have an expiration date, and once the expiration date is reached, the cookie will no longer be stored in the <u>client</u> system. Thus, the client will no longer respond to Web servers with the cookie.

Therefore, <u>Montulli</u> merely describes that a cookie may be exchanged between a Web server and a client, and that the cookie has an expiration date, but at no point does <u>Montulli</u> teach or suggest "setting a predetermined string for checking a cookie status of the terminal... in an HTTP response corresponding to a first HTTP request sent from the terminal." More specifically, the Web server in <u>Montulli</u> merely determines if the cookie is valid, but does not set a predetermined string in an HTTP response to "check" the cookie status of a terminal, as claimed.

Amended independent Claim 1 further recites that "when the cookie information determining part determines that the second HTTP request includes the predetermined string, the information processing apparatus keeps the memory area for storing information on a session between the terminal and the information processing apparatus."

As noted above, <u>Montulli</u> fails to teach or suggest setting the predetermined string, much less preserving memory area when a second HTTP request from the terminal includes the predetermined string, as recited in independent Claim 1.

Regarding the secondary references, <u>Atamaniouk</u> is relied upon only to reject the claimed features directed to sending, from the apparatus to the terminal, a Web page for requesting the terminal to enable a cookie function, and fails to cure the above noted deficiencies of <u>Montulli</u>.

Similarly, <u>Kocherlakota</u> is relied upon on only to reject the claimed features directed to exchanging session information between the client and server, and also fails to remedy the above noted deficiencies of <u>Montulli</u>

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Further, independent Claim 9, as well as dependent Claims 6, 17 and 18 recite that the information processing apparatus is configured to perform at least one of a *printing operation and a facsimile operation in response to a request from the terminal.* An exemplary embodiment of this feature is disclosed at p. 9, ll. 20-22 and Fig. 4 of the specification.

In rejecting Claims 6 and 17, which recited that the information processing apparatus is an image forming apparatus, the outstanding Office Action relies on col. 12, ll. 22-25 of Montulli. This cited portion of Montulli describes an on-line shopping application of his system in which a merchant server 122 transmits a Web page to a client browser. The Web page includes information about the merchant and its products, and each product may be associated with its own HTML document that fully describes the product. Products may be described using text, images, sounds, video clips, and any other communication form supported by Web browsers.

Thus, Montulli merely describes responding to a client's request by transmitting a Web page and associated product information to the terminal. Montulli, however, fails to teach or suggest that the server is *an image forming apparatus* configured to perform at least one of a *printing operation and a facsimile operation in response to a request from the terminal,* as recited in amended independent Claim 1.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of Claim 1 (and the claims that depend therefrom) under 35 U.S.C. §102 and 35 U.S.C. §103 be withdrawn. For substantially similar reasons, it is also submitted that independent Claims 7, 9 and 12 (and the claims that depend therefrom) patentably define over Montulli, Atamaniouk, and/or Kocherlakota.
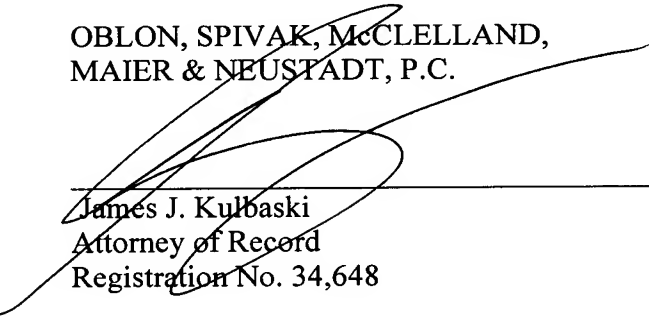
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Consequently, in view of the present amendment and in light of the foregoing comments, it is respectfully submitted that the invention defined by Claims 1, 4, 6-7, 9-12, 15 and 17-18 patentably define over the applied references. The present application is therefore believed to be in condition for formal allowance and an early and favorable reconsideration of the application is therefore requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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